

THE COLLEGIAN

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1st in a series: Aiming for PUF

University sets its sights on endowment

By **Julianna Sosa**
Staff Writer

Texas Southmost College District trustees want UTB/TSC to benefit from the Permanent

University Fund, but the request is raising concern among UT System administrators, who say it would be “opening Pandora’s box.”

In their case for funding from

PUF, TSC board members cited Cameron County as the second poorest in the nation while being a part of the fastest-growing population in Texas.

“This community respects and

nourishes its partnership with [the] UT [System],” Trustee Chester Gonzalez said during the board’s annual partnership meeting Dec. 12 with members of the UT System board of

regents and interim UT System Chancellor Kenneth Shine. “If you ask the layperson how we

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Scorpion assistants



MICHAEL PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

Raul Castillo (left) and Bobby Jo Vasquez, staff members at the Financial Aid Quick Stop/Go Center assist students with questions and concerns about their financial aid status for the Spring 2009 semester.

UTB/TSC to ask the Legislature for \$72.5M

By **Linnet Cisneros**
Collegian Editor

The 81st Texas Legislature is scheduled to convene on Tuesday, and UTB/TSC hopes its proposed Tuition Revenue Bond request for \$63 million to build a Student Success Center will be approved.

“Our very first Tuition Revenue Bond building was [the Science Engineering and Technology Building] which was around \$25 million,” Antonio Zavaleta, vice president of External Affairs said. “The second building was the Life and Health Sciences Building and the third was the Education and Business Complex.”

These buildings have all been constructed with the money received from previous Tuition Revenue Bonds, which are granted by the Legislature.

“Tuition Revenue Bond funding is becoming increasingly

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Chess Documentary, Page 11



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Inauguration focus of Welcome Week

By David Boon
Staff Writer

This semester, UTB/TSC's Welcome Week events are designed not only to welcome students on their return to campus, but also to observe the change in leadership of the nation.

"What we wanted to focus on," said Mari Fuentes-Martin, dean of students and associate vice president for Student Affairs, "[was] the inauguration of a new president, kind of the state of the nation, and the critical topics that he will be facing as president, and trying to engage the campus community in what these kinds of changes will mean at various levels--at the national level, here locally on campus, in Brownsville, the state and worldwide."

This semester's theme, dubbed "Scorpion Nation: Embracing-Enlightening-



Evolving," takes aim at tough issues such as diversity, hoping to promote further thought and discussions with its events.

"Having our first black president has started a lot of dialogue about [diversity's] significance and its challenges," Fuentes-Martin said. "What ideas, what philosophies do different people bring to the table? How much should we value or embrace each other's ideas? And that's kind of where the Embracing-Enlightening-

Evolving is about. We really want people to embrace differences, and to be accepting of all people, as well as being enlightened and learning about the diversity that we have here and the value that that brings to our community."

The events start today and tomorrow with information tables at key places on campus, such as the Education and Business Complex, the Student Union, the Endowment Courtyard and the Lightner

Courtyard from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., and from 4 to 7 p.m., staffed with people ready to answer questions and help students find their way around campus.

Then, on Thursday, Student Health Services will conduct a Wellness Fair from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Cortez Hall.

"[Student Health Services has] established some new partnerships with [the] Cameron County Health Department to give students more exposure to preventative care and immunizations," Fuentes-Martin said. "They have a lot that they want to share with students, so they're going to have an all-day open house."

That same day, the movie "Higher Learning" will be shown in the Student Union Gran Salon at noon and at 6 p.m.

"The movie is an older

movie, but it's about being in college and it's about the dialogues on diversity and that kind of confrontation of new ideas and deeply embedded ideas and finding out where you stand on all of that," Fuentes-Martin said. "It's not a mainstream movie, it's not the 'Dark Knight,' it's not a recent release, but I think where we are as a nation, where you are as students, that it would be a good springboard for a lot of other discussions."

At 11 a.m. Friday, a Free Speech Alley titled "The Changing Role of Leadership" will be held in the Endowment Courtyard. Participating students will be given two minutes to voice their opinion.

"Students have seen Free Speech Alley for a couple of years now here," said John A. Cook, an associate professor in

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More students on academic probation

By Linet Cisneros
Collegian Editor

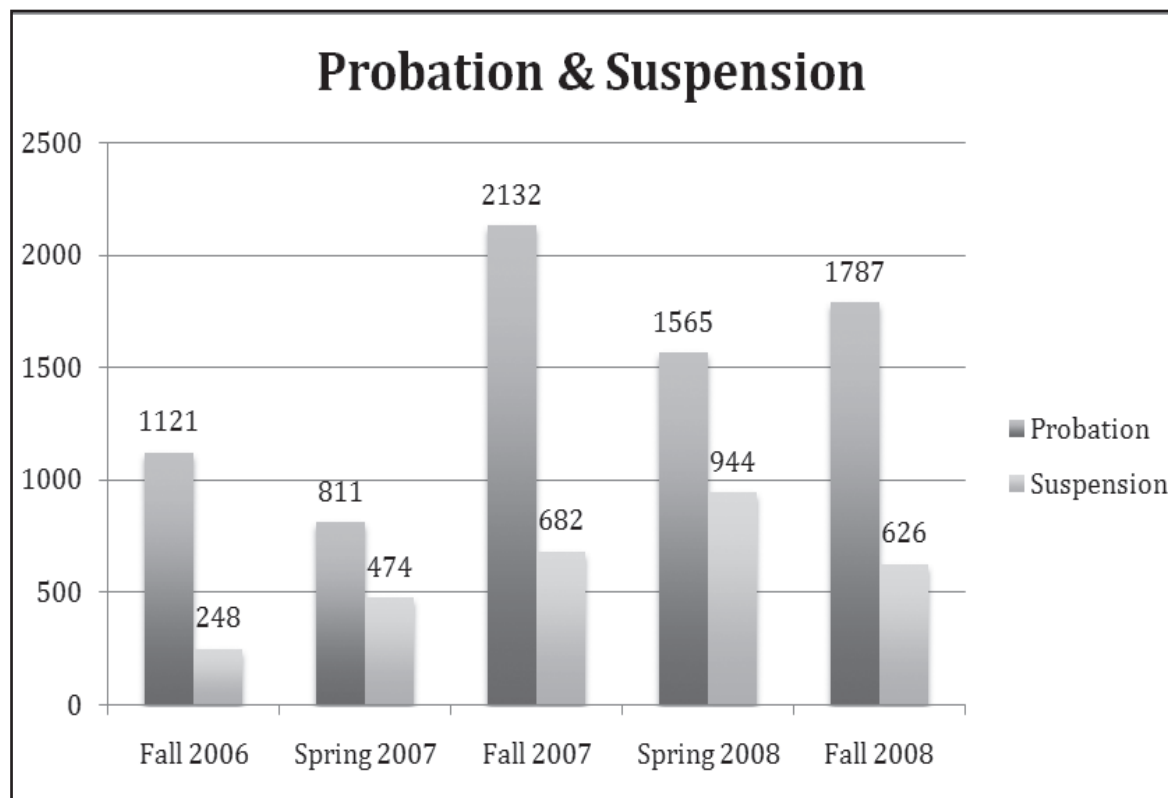
As a new year and new semester begin, the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy has taken a toll on student enrollment.

According to statistics provided by the Enrollment Management office, 7,818 students are in good standing, according to the SAP policy's regulations, 1,787 are on probation, 536 are on Suspension I, and 90 are on Suspension II, which comes to a total of 2,413 students not in good standing with the university.

"It definitely is affecting our enrollment because the numbers on probation and suspension are certainly significantly greater than they used to be," said Linda Fossen, associate vice president of Enrollment Management.

In Spring 2008, 944 students were placed on suspension and 1,565 students were on probation, according to The Collegian's archives.

"Well, we're definitely losing students," Fossen said. "But, we have some students who have previously been on probation and are coming back after sitting out for the required time. We also have a number of new students ... who are coming in."



DAVID GUERRA/COLLEGIAN

The SAP policy states that students must have a 2.0 grade-point average and complete 70 percent of courses attempted, both per semester and cumulatively.

Since Dual Enrollment students also account for part of UTB/TSC's enrollment, the university had to take into account how this would affect students who have not graduated yet.

"The first year that we initiated [SAP] about a year ago, we had 18 students who were on Dual Enrollment that were affected by the SAP policy with a negative academic standing," Fossen

said. "We did have a process where we adjusted our SAP policy so that [it] now designates that the student's calculation for SAP will begin after their first term on

"I think students as a whole are very capable, very talented and can do the work,"

-- Linda Fossen
Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management

campus."

This change, which was implemented last term, gives Dual students a chance to work

on their grades to meet SAP requirements within their first university semester. Before this change, Dual students had a chance of being suspended before they even stepped foot on campus.

The Student Success Center is trying to help students focus more on their education and on a big picture or goal that they can achieve.

"We encourage [students] to make their education a priority [and] create educational goals for themselves," said Frank Coulson, a counselor for the Student Success Center. "Sometimes, having a goal of what you want out of your

classes can help."

The center offers many other helpful services to help students be successful in academics.

"[Counselor] Bob Phaneuf does a number of workshops throughout the semester," Coulson said. "I do a couple of workshops myself on studying smart and overcoming boredom in the classroom."

Even though the number of students on probation continues to increase, Fossen believes that SAP has had a positive impact on students.

"I think students as a whole are very capable, very talented and can do the work," she said. "And when we set the bar high, the students will and do prove to us that they can do work at that level. And I have heard a number of faculty members say that they see students taking classes more seriously and doing better academically than they did prior to the new SAP policy."

So far, there have been no updates or changes to SAP and it is still being enforced on all students.

"We want our students to succeed ... and I think SAP is one of the things that is and will continue to advance students' educational success," Fossen said.

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Student Soapbox

What are your New Year's Resolutions?

"Mis propósitos para este año son mejor disciplina, portarme mejor con mis papás y con mis hermanas, y sacarme muy buenas calificaciones y subir mi GPA."



Valeria Contreras
Estudiante de biología de segundo año



"My New Year's resolution is just to pass and get out of college already, and just to get straight A's."

Lizette Zavala

Sophomore bilingual education major

"My new year resolutions are ... finishing school [and] trying to graduate this year."



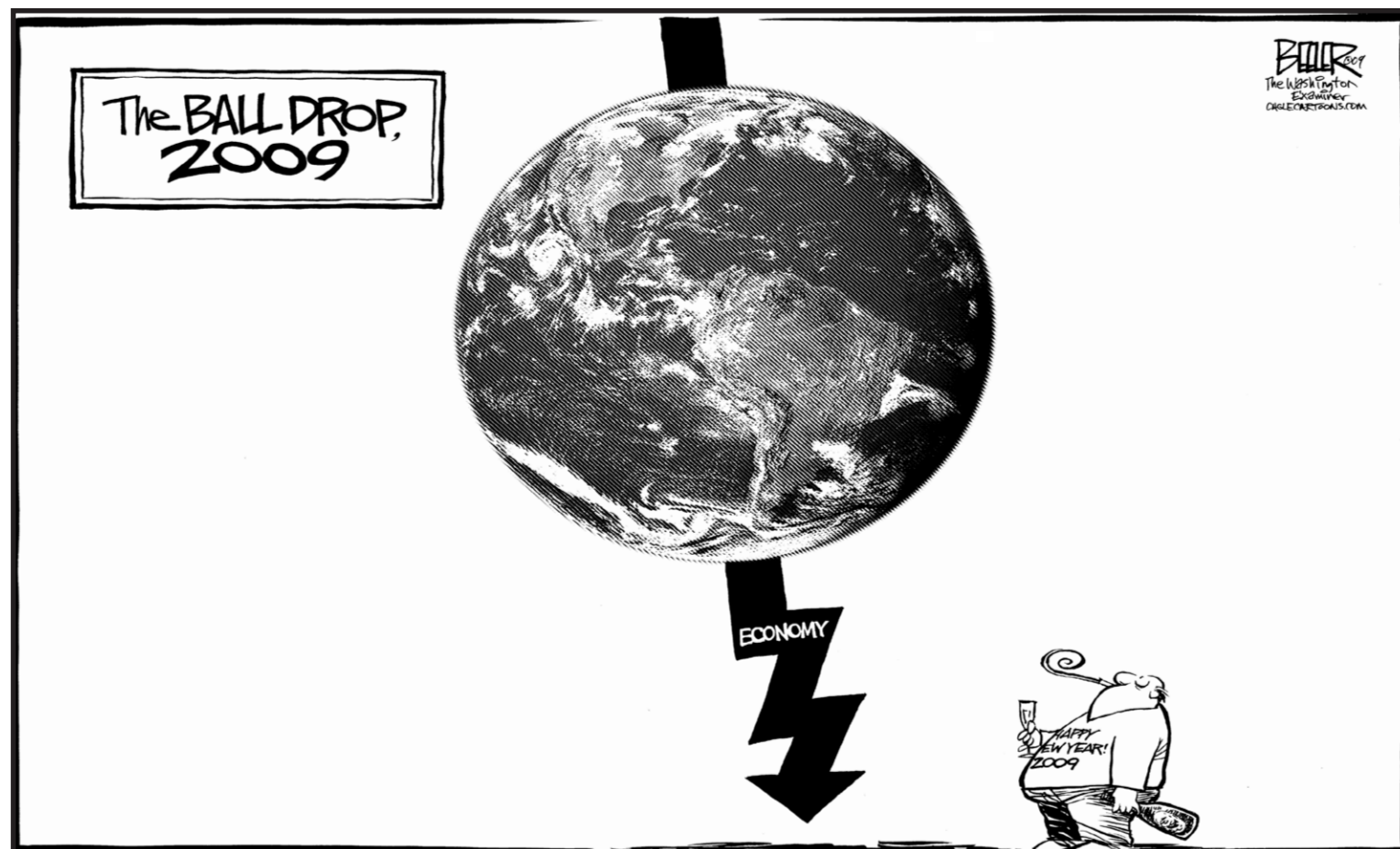
Luis Sanchez
Sophomore nursing major



"To get back in school, start doing what I should do, and show everyone that I could do better than what anybody else could do in the family."

Joey Salcido
Sophomore Education major

--Compiled by Valeria A. Sosa
--Photos by Diego Lerma



President's Corner

Fellow students, I would like to welcome all of you to another great semester. It is an honor for your Student Government to have the opportunity to salute you at the start of the Spring 2009 semester and make known to you our goals for the UTB/TSC student body. Some might say that we can easily rest on the laurels of the accomplishments during the previous semester, but that would be a disservice to the faith placed in us by all of you.

It is with a determined

heart that we once again take upon ourselves the banner of commitment, perseverance and dedication in order to better serve you. The challenges of this historical year, not only for us as a campus but for us as a people, shall set precedent to future generations of Scorpions. It is with great humility that we accept the coming challenges and the sanction of service.

Our purpose has always been and will always continue to be the betterment of the university life we all



share at UTB/TSC. Some of the concerns that were brought to the table last semester will continue to be worked on this semester. I have created two ad hoc committees to address some student concerns: the Constitutional Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

Of our many goals for this semester, we have placed on the front burner setting up scholarships, amending our constitution, reorganizing SGA's committees and creating diverse civil and national awareness of issues that are of utmost importance to our campus. Furthermore, we want to continue working closely with student organizations and the Student Life Department to increase student involvement. These are but a few of the many missions we shall work on as of Day 1.

I would like to invite you to become a part of the many opportunities to serve in your community and on campus. Becoming an active and informed student on this campus and in your community will help improve your university experience. Remember, your destiny is in your hands; it is important that you voice your concerns.

On behalf of the Student Government, I hope you have a successful semester!

Jorge J. Alanis
SGA President

Letters to the editor policy

Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Collegian are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Collegian or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Letters for The Collegian can be sent to collegian@utb.edu.

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Many didn't think this day would come

By William Douglas
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

WASHINGTON--For Josie Johnson, history will come full circle when she stands in the crowd at the foot of the U.S. Capitol and sees Barack Obama sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

Johnson, a retired University of Minnesota professor, was in another crowd on Washington's National Mall on a sweltering day in August 1963, mesmerized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech about dreaming that someday his children would be judged by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin.

"I keep thinking that Obama was the child he was talking about, that America and the world would see his character," said Johnson, who is 77. "Never in my life did I think I would see this day. To see Martin Luther King and now Barack Obama, it's a full circle, a wonderful complete, full circle. I pinch myself once a day now."

Obama's election and his coming inauguration have triggered euphoria, disbelief, a restoration of faith in an American system that has not always been worthy of it, a feeling that all things are possible no matter who, or what, you are.

It has been two months since Obama became the first black to be elected president, but the emotions among African-Americans, especially the elderly, are as vivid and fresh as if it were still Nov. 4 with the results from California just coming in.

Jan. 20 will be just as emotional--perhaps more so--when Obama puts his hand on a Bible, states his full name and takes the oath of office before what is expected to be the largest Inauguration Day crowd in history.

"This is an incredible public racial moment, a positive one," said Kathryn Russell-Brown, director of the University of Florida's Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations. "And it's wonderful to



CHUCK KENNEDY/MCT

President-elect Barack Obama delivers remarks Thursday on his American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

see this through the eyes of citizens older than me, through my parents. There was no reason for them to imagine something like this in their lifetime."

Ernie Green couldn't imagine there being an African-American president as he grew up in Little Rock, Ark., where he and eight other black students were taunted by whites and required protection by armed National Guardsmen as they integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957.

Green and other members of the Little Rock Nine will attend Obama's swearing-in ceremony as guests of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. They will join the surviving Tuskegee Airmen, the famed African-American aviators of World War II, as special inaugural guests.

"I didn't think it would happen in my lifetime," said Green, 67, who lives in suburban Washington. "To me, personally,

it makes me feel that the choice I made in Little Rock 51 years ago came to fruition."

Roscoe Brown, a Tuskegee Airman who accepted the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush last year on behalf of his fellow airmen, figured that there would be an African-American president, but not until 2012. He is happy that the day came sooner rather than later.

"It's a vindication about beating segregation," said Brown, 86, who grew up in segregated Washington. "It's a good time, like the end of the Civil War."

Rep. James Clyburn, a son of segregated South Carolina, also speaks of vindication when he talks about Obama's victory and what it symbolizes. Clyburn, a Democrat, said he cried with his children and grandchildren on Election Night, three generations of one African-American family shedding tears for different

reasons.

Clyburn said his were tears of "vindication for all those who kept faith in the American system." The tears streaming down the faces of his family, he said, were "tears of hope."

"Hope for a future they really thought would never come to be, as many times as I told them they could grow up to be whatever they wanted to be," Clyburn recalled. "Quite frankly, they didn't believe it, and I didn't believe it when I was telling them."

Like many older African-Americans, suburban Washington resident John Leeke began the political season doubting that enough whites could shed the age-old shackles of racism and vote for a black or biracial person to occupy the highest office in the land.

As the campaign progressed, however, and Obama's primary victories mounted, Leeke grew more confident that some attitudes had changed and Obama could pull it off.

Still, he rarely talked about it because he could not shake a nagging feeling that despite Obama's imposing campaign war chest, formidable organization and sizable lead over Republican presidential candidate John McCain, something would go wrong and white voters would reject him.

"Too many times we have trusted people to do the right thing and they'll turn around and do things that truly are not indicative of doing the right thing," he said. "Given that, I'm thrilled, pleased, excited and haven't settled down since it was a done deal."

Like Leeke, retired professor Johnson did not say much to her family and friends about Obama's chances during the campaign, chalking it up to superstition. She knew in her heart that Obama would win, but she nonetheless was pleasantly surprised when he did.

"I didn't believe it," she said. "It restores my faith in what I believe is possible. It demonstrates that with hard work, discipline, it can happen."

All eyes will be on Michelle Obama

By Maria Recio
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

WASHINGTON -- Inauguration Day will belong to President Barack Obama, but that night will be wife Michelle's turn in the spotlight, as all eyes will be on her--and her choice of ball gown.

Throughout U.S. history, and especially in the post-World War II era, first ladies have made statements about themselves and the times they live in with their

inaugural wardrobes.

"They are symbols of our country. They reflect around the world an image of our country," said Carl Sferrazza Anthony, a historian who has written extensively about first ladies.

At the same time, he said, people want to know that the president's wife is accessible to them.

"The first lady is a balancing act between being a queen and a commoner," Anthony said. "The inaugural gown is a metaphor for the first lady role."



ABACA PRESS/MCT

The statuesque Obama has excited fashion designers, who are eager to dress her, but

observers say that the recession makes it likely that she will wear a subdued gown in keeping with the country's economic downturn.

"I'm sure she won't have an over-the-top gown studded with diamonds and rubies," said etiquette expert Letitia Baldrige, former social secretary to first lady Jackie Kennedy. "It will be something suitably quiet for the times."

Women's Wear Daily has created a buzz with its feature "Michelle Obama: What should

she wear?" which showcases designers' sketches for her inaugural gown done at the behest of the newspaper.

The reaction to the piece on the Web, said Bobbi Queen, WWD senior fashion editor, "has been unbelievable." The posting, with a slide show, has had nearly 6 million hits and has been on six or seven blogs. Queen thinks Obama's appeal is that she is the first presidential wife "since Jacqueline Kennedy who has the presence and elegance that would intrigue women."

PUF

Continued from Page 1

have obtained funding for our institution, they will tell you it's all about taxes and they'll use terms such as, we've clawed and scratched to get funding from the [Texas] Legislature and from the authorities that are empowered to do so.

"The purpose of such an accelerated and ambitious campaign fund that we are on is to meet the needs of the students for [the] year 2010. ... We are trying to close the gaps, but we are catching up, chancellor. We are trying to catch up to where we probably should have been 20 years ago and so we look to the regents and the UT System to allow us to achieve what this community deserves.

"I don't mean to demand that that be done, but certainly this community is demanding of us, that we obtain the funding necessary and not have to go back to the voters and say we need to raise taxes because we need money for this."

In 2004, voters in the TSC District approved the board's proposal of a \$68 million bond issue for capital improvements for construction projects, including a new library, two classroom buildings and an arts center. Two years before, voters rejected the board's first proposal of a \$97 million bond issue.

Shine said the PUF proposal is a "difficult and dangerous area," pointing out that the issue is not only a legislative issue, but a constitutional issue as well.

"Once you start going to constitutional amendments to change the way in which resources are used, everybody who wants a piece of the action is going to want to change the constitution. ... It's going to be have to be done in some way that this doesn't make this open season on a limited amount of money," Shine said. "Secondly, personally, I would like to know a lot more about what the alternatives are, in particular from the point of view of [the Higher Education Assistance Fund] in terms of what we can do to help you get more capital. I'm not suggesting for a minute that that is not an important kind of goal, but there may be other alternatives."

Shine added that PUF is only used for such capital expenditures

as buildings, not for programs, and noted that PUF was in decline due to recent economic developments.

State Rep. Rene Oliveira (D-Brownsville) told The Collegian in a prepared statement that he has been discussing the issue with university administrators.

"I'm going to explore moving UTB and UT-Pan American into the Permanent University Fund, but it's going to be a tough fight," Oliveira's statement reads. "It would require a constitutional amendment. Higher-education funding is down for institutions in and out of the PUF. I have had meetings with Dr. [Juliet V.] García and several TSC board members, but the University of Texas System and the UT board of regents [do] not support the idea, making its implementation even more difficult."

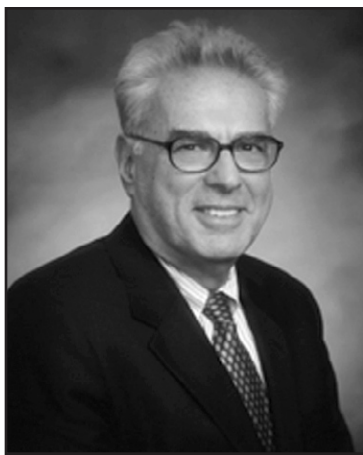
Permanent University Fund

The PUF is a public endowment that was established in the Texas Constitution of 1876 through appropriations of land grants previously given to the University of Texas at Austin.

More than 2 million acres of land, mostly located in West Texas counties, currently belongs to the PUF. This land proved to be a major asset when oil was discovered in 1901 on Spindletop Hill, just a couple of miles south of Beaumont. This discovery marked the birth of Texas' modern-day petroleum industries, according to the Handbook of Texas Online.

That same year, the Texas Legislature gave UT-Austin authorization to "sell, lease, and otherwise control" the mineral interests in the PUF lands, according to the UT System Web site. Today, most of its assets are securities held by the fund.

The PUF is managed by the board of regents of the UT System, which determines and distributes the funds to each one of the 21 PUF institutions. According to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board online documents, all public institutions of higher education except

**Kenneth Shine**

community colleges and the Texas A&M University System College of Dentistry receive funding for construction and other capital purposes from the PUF or the Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF).

Currently, there are 30 HEAF institutions, including the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of Texas-Pan American, both of which are the only institutions under the UT System that do not receive monies from the PUF.

Steve Collins, associate vice chancellor for governmental relations for the UT System, said that in 1983, the Texas Legislature created the Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF), a source of revenue that uses an automatic appropriation of money from the state treasury. This fund was created by legislators to provide dedicated capital expenditure funding for all colleges and universities. It was determined that all institutions under the branches of the University of Texas System and the Agriculture and Mechanical System would receive capital funding from the PUF and all other public institutions would benefit from the HEAF. Voters adopted the constitutional amendment in 1984. At that time, Pan American University had a branch on this campus and was listed as a HEAF institution.

Five years later, the Legislature implemented the South Texas Border Initiative as a result of the LULAC vs. Clements lawsuit, according to "Chicano and Friends" (NYU Press, 2008). The STBI included a \$460 million funding package for the nine four-year colleges/universities in the border region.

That same year, as the result of the initiative, Pan American

**Rene Oliveira**

in 1991 of the University of Texas at Brownsville.

Collins said amending the state constitution is not an easy task for any institution to undertake.

"The 1984 constitutional amendment that created the HEAF, it moved everybody else into the PUF, it was a very hard-thought and delicate political compromise, very controversial at the time," Collins told The Collegian in a telephone interview Thursday morning. "[It] required the ultimate balancing of interest, once again, to return to where we had been, where everybody had the dedicated construction. So I'm assuming what Dr. Shine would have meant was that, to go back with the constitutional amendment to change that could send in jeopardy what was a very delicate political balance that has been maintained now for almost 25 years."

During the Dec. 12 meeting, Regent John W. Barnhill Jr. asked why UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan Am are not PUF institutions.

TSC Chairman David Oliveira replied, "I think Pan Am was invited and I think what happened then is they looked at the price of oil and what income the PUF was generating and I think short-sightedly said, 'you know, we do better in HEAF.' If they had looked long term, our analysis is, that they would have done better in PUF and perhaps had they made the decision to participate in PUF, we wouldn't be having this conversation right now and, unfortunately, it is what it is."

HEAF vs. PUF

The annual appropriation for HEAF in Fiscal Year 2008 was \$262.5 million, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board online documents. This appropriation is used for many of the same

University at Brownsville became a part of the University of Texas System as a consequence of the University of Texas-Pan American merger, according to the UTB/TSC Web site. This was the prelude to the establishment in 1991 of the University of Texas

purposes as the PUF, such as the acquisition of land; construction, repair and rehabilitation of buildings; the purchase capital equipment and library materials.

The UT System board of regents approved the distribution of \$449 million in the PUF for the fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2008.

The allocation of the PUF is determined by the regents, unlike the HEAF, which is allocated by a formula.

"If you are in the HEAF, your share of the constitutional appropriations is determined by formulas," Collins said. "If [UTB and UT Pan Am] are amended to the PUF, there is no formula. The board of regents will decide how much of their bonding authority will go to UT-Pan Am and UT-Brownsville. So, it's just a completely different mechanism for which they would get their capital expenditure funding."

While most UT System administrators contend the benefits of HEAF are fair, UTB/TSC administrators say it's not enough.

"Without the assistance with PUF, or an alternative to funding, we are always going to be clawing and scratching to get funding for a community that deserved to get this funding many, many years ago, so I say with all due respect ... we still don't feel that this community has received its fair share and the partnership is, in my opinion, a fantastic method of obtaining higher education in the Valley," Trustee Chester Gonzalez said during the Dec. 12 meeting. "But remember, UT-Austin is capped at 55,000 students, more or less. It's bursting at the seams, it's got the top 10 percent rule. ... That creates more of a demand on our service market area to get the funding necessary to make our institution able to meet its demands for this area because we will not be able to transfer to UT-Austin at a more progressive rate than we may want to because there is no more room, no capacity. Therefore, it makes the institution that serves South Texas more of a paramount of importance to obtain the funding to close those gaps."

THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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The University of Texas at
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Briefs

Basketball league

Registration for the **Basketball League** starts today and ends Jan. 28. A captain's meeting is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Student Union's Salon Jacaranda. For more information or to sign up, visit www.campusrecreation.utb.edu or call 982-0172.

Open House

The **Student Health Services** Department will have an **Open House** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in Cortez Hall 237 and from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Education and Business Complex Courtyard. Testing for glucose, hypertension, HIV, stress analysis, weight analysis and counseling will be provided. Pedometers and lanyards will be given away and peanut butter sandwiches and iced tea will be served. For more information, call 882-3896.

Art exhibit

An exhibit titled "**Soil-less**" by **Sara Good** opens with a reception at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Rusteberg Art Gallery. The exhibit runs through Feb. 6. Admission is \$1. For more information, call 882-7097 or

send an e-mail to gallery@utb.edu.

Patron of the Arts

Clarinetist **Jonathan Guist**, bassoonist **Anne Guist** and flutist **Cristina Ballatori** will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and children, and \$3 for UTB/TSC students with a valid ID. For more information, call 882-7025.

Pianist **Uzziel Guzman** will perform at 8 p.m. Jan. 27 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and children, and \$3 for UTB/TSC students with a valid ID. For more information, call 882-7025.

Leadership Symposium

UTB/TSC's **Communication Program** is sponsoring a symposium on "**The Changing Face of Leadership**" from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 20 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. A panel of distinguished speakers representing economic, political and social viewpoints will share experiences and opinions on the changing of today's leadership. Admission is free. For more information, call Associate

Professor **John A. Cook** at 882-8851 or send him an e-mail at john.a.cook@utb.edu.

Student Success workshop

A workshop titled "**Study Smart**" will be presented by Career Counselor **Frank Coulson** from 1 to 2 p.m. Jan. 21 in Cardenas Hall North 104. The workshops are sponsored by the **Student Success Center**. For more information, call 882-8292.

Martin Luther King Jr. program

"**An Evening of Celebration,**" a program honoring the **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**, will take place at 6 p.m. Jan. 22 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is free. The **Rev. Theodore Andrews III**, pastor of Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Harlingen, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact **Deloria Nanze-Davis** at 882-5741 or deloria.nanzedavis@utb.edu.

A&E season

The Arts and Entertainment season presents the **U.S. Air Force Band of the West** at 3 p.m. Jan. 24 in the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Admission is free.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call 882-7945.

Microsoft Office workshop

UTB/TSC offers a free **Microsoft Office Workshop** on Excel, Access, Outlook, Word, FrontPage, Publisher and PowerPoint to students, staff and faculty by appointment in Arnulfo L. Oliveira Memorial Library room 235. To register, visit <http://blue.utb.edu/usslabs/>.

Learning Enrichment services

The **Learning Enrichment Department's Writing Lab** gives support with writing assignments, research papers, online database research and Blackboard assistance. All services are free for current UTB/TSC students. Operating hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in Cardenas Hall North 120.

--Compiled by Paola Ibarra

If you would like your organization or department news published in the Collegian's Briefs section, call Paola Ibarra at 882-5143 or send her an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu.

Scholarships

The **Hispanic Scholarships College STEM** awards \$2,000 to students pursuing a bachelor's degree in science, technology, engineering or math. Students interested must apply online and all required materials must be received no later than midnight Eastern time **Friday**. For more information, visit <http://alliancescholars.org>.

The **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation** awards up to \$30,000 to students who must be nominated by their two-year institute, have a 3.5 GPA, are current students at an accredited U.S. community college with sophomore status and plan to transfer to a four-year college in fall (TSC students are eligible). The **deadline to apply is Friday**.

For more information, visit <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships>.

The **UTB/TSC Alumni Association** awards a \$500 scholarship each spring and fall semester to students who are active members of the UTB/TSC Alumni Association, are junior, senior or graduate students with a 3.0 GPA, enrolled for at least

three credit hours and are U.S. citizens or resident aliens. The **deadline to apply is Jan. 31**. For more information, visit the office of **Financial Assistance** in Tandy Hall 206 or the **Fort Brown Memorial Center** office, located at 600 International Blvd.

--Compiled by Paola Ibarra

Internships

The **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellowship Program** offers 20 Latinos hands-on experience at the national level in the public policy area of their choice and work in areas such as international affairs, economic development, education policy, housing or local government. Applicants must have high academic achievement, remarkable participation in public service-oriented activities, evidence of leadership skills, potential for leadership growth, superior analytical skills, outstanding oral and written communication

skills, be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and should have graduated from a college or university within one year of the application deadline. The **deadline to apply is Feb. 13**. For more information, visit <http://www.chci.org/>.

The **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Graduate and Young Professional Fellowship Program** offers Latino college graduates and young professionals exposure to professional experience in the public policy areas of health, housing, law, international affairs, science, technology,

education and math. Applicants must possess a graduate degree from an accredited educational institution or equivalent three years professional experience in the chosen policy field, high academic achievement, superior oral and written analytical and communications skills, consistent active participation in public and/or community service activities and be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. The **deadline to apply is Feb. 13**. For more information, visit <http://www.chci.org/>.

The **Archer Center Fellowship**, in conjunction

with the University of Texas System, brings highly motivated and accomplished students to Washington, D.C. to participate in varied internships and take part in classes focusing on policy, economics and persuasion. The fellowship is eligible to students who are juniors or seniors, have an overall grade-point average of 3.0, have previous work or internship experience and complete government requirements. The **deadline to apply is Feb. 13**. For more information, visit www.archercenter.org.

--Compiled by Paola Ibarra

Obituary

Eddie Ramirez, 44, academic adviser

By Paola Ibarra
Staff Writer

Eduardo “Eddie” Ramirez, a UTB/TSC academic adviser, is being remembered for his laughter, his caring heart and his big smile.

After a long illness, Mr. Ramirez died at 6:40 p.m. Christmas Eve in the Harlingen Medical Center. He was 44.

He had been an adviser for six years.

Andreina Galvan, associate director of the Academic Advising Center, described how it was to work with Mr. Ramirez.

“[He was] wonderful, he liked coming to work, he was always in a very good mood, very upbeat, ... always laughing, ...

[a] hard worker and extremely caring,” Galvan said. “He had many friends [and] was popular with students and staff.”

Mr. Ramirez loved to travel to Mexico and Europe.

Moises Ramirez said his best memory of his brother was “us traveling in Barcelona, [Spain].”

He also said his brother was proud to work at the university.

“He loved his job and what he considered a great pride was to help the students,” Moises Ramirez said. “I hope that everyone that knows him knows that he loved life.”

“Mr. Ramirez was an excellent adviser—very knowledgeable about all the degree programs, but he also had a way to make the students feel that they could do whatever they set out to do,”



Eduardo “Eddie” Ramirez

Galvan said.

He was extremely considerate of others, she said. At times, the Academic Advising Center would get very busy and students would wait for hours to see an adviser.

“Eddie was always worried that [the students] were hungry,” Galvan said. “He would walk around asking all the advisers if they had any food in their office so that he could give it to the students.”

Mr. Ramirez was born in San Benito and graduated from San Benito High School. He received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UTB/TSC in 2001.

Mr. Ramirez worked for Texas State Technical College for 15 years and the Texas Employment Commission. He also worked two years with the College Assistance Migrant Program at UTB/TSC before becoming an academic adviser.

“He coordinated the Dual Summer Bridge program [in

its] first year, served on many committees, volunteered, ... coordinated many events for students for the advising center, and did presentations for STING Success and orientation,” Galvan said.

Those students advised by Mr. Ramirez now will be served by the other advisers, she said.

Besides his brother, Mr. Ramirez is survived by his mother, Herminia E. Ramirez; five sisters: Lupe Naranjo, Gloria Martinez, Isabel R. Sotelo, Nina Ramirez and Norma Navarro; and four other brothers: Ernesto Ramirez, Armando Ramirez Jr., Johnny Ramirez and Israel Ramirez.

Visitation was held Dec. 27 in the San Benito Funeral Home.

Welcome

Continued from Page 2

the English and Communication Department.

On Jan. 20, the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama will be shown live across campus in the Gran Salon, the Education and Business Complex’s Salon Cassia and the SET-B Lecture Hall. The inauguration ceremonies begin at 9 a.m.

“We’ll have televised coverage all over campus, and students can see that and, hopefully, they’ll begin to have some dialogue with their professors and their classes about that,” Cook

said. “I’m encouraging that kind of dialogue, government professors, business professors, anyone who thinks that they can look at the impact of the inauguration of a new president and how that’s going to affect things.”

At 4:30 p.m. that day, Cook will host a symposium on the changing face of leadership in the SET-B Lecture Hall.

“We’re going to have local politicians and other people who have been influential in the community... some of whom are politicians, some of whom are not, to talk about what they think the changing face of leadership means to this generation,” he said. “[The

topic is] not just associated with what is happening with the Barrack Obama administration, but what is happening in local, state and national politics, and they’re going to talk about that for 10 minutes per speaker, and then have some interaction with the audience.”

On Jan. 21, Join-a-Club Day takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gazebos. As the name suggests, students are encouraged to join a club and become more involved in the campus community.

Welcome Week wraps up with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event, which will take place at 6 p.m. Jan. 22 in the SET-B Lecture Hall.

“We call it ‘An Evening of Celebration,’ and we’ve been doing it for 12 years,” said Deloria Nanze-Davis, the event’s coordinator and assistant to the dean of General Studies.

The event commemorates the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with poetry, speeches and live musical performances.

“We have Dr. [Manuel] Medrano, he’s a professor here on campus, he usually does some poetry readings and a slide show,” Nanze-Davis said. “We have a group called Children of the Rio Grande Valley, they sing. We have soloists from the Valley. ... The guest speaker is

[the] Rev. Theodore Andrews III and he is pastor of Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Harlingen.”

While the event often is held near Welcome Week, it is not always counted as part of the events. By including it, the event is not only put on the spotlight, but also builds on the theme of diversity.

“[With] the inauguration, and the discussion on diversity, it made [‘An Evening of Celebration’] a better fit, and so we wanted to include it in that, and incorporate that and try to show more support for that event through Welcome Week,” Fuentes-Martin said.

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Bond

Continued from Page 1

difficult,” Zavaleta said. “While this should be a Tuition Revenue Bond funding year ... people are saying that [because of] the condition of the economy ... that it’s going to be really tough. It took us 20 years to get \$100 million.”

The TRB request has been shared with the area’s legislative delegation, which is composed of state Sen. Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville) and state Representatives Rene Oliveira (D-Brownsville), Eddie Lucio III (D-Brownsville) and Tara Rios Ybarra (D-South Padre Island).

“At this point in our history ... what we need desperately, right now at this moment, is a state-of-the-art facility that provides student services,” Zavaleta said. “One-stop shopping ... with plenty of space where our people can work in good positive conditions, where student employees can work and where you can get everything done that you need to get done, from intake to graduation, in one big, beautiful building.”

If approved, the Student Success Center would

house Admissions, Records Management, the Testing Office, the Financial Assistance office, Academic Advising, New Student Relations, Data Management, the Business Office and Student Services.

The new building would allow for more space and better accommodations for some of the services currently offered in Tandy Hall.

“We always have large crowds, especially in the summer, during peak times and, of course, right now when we are beginning the

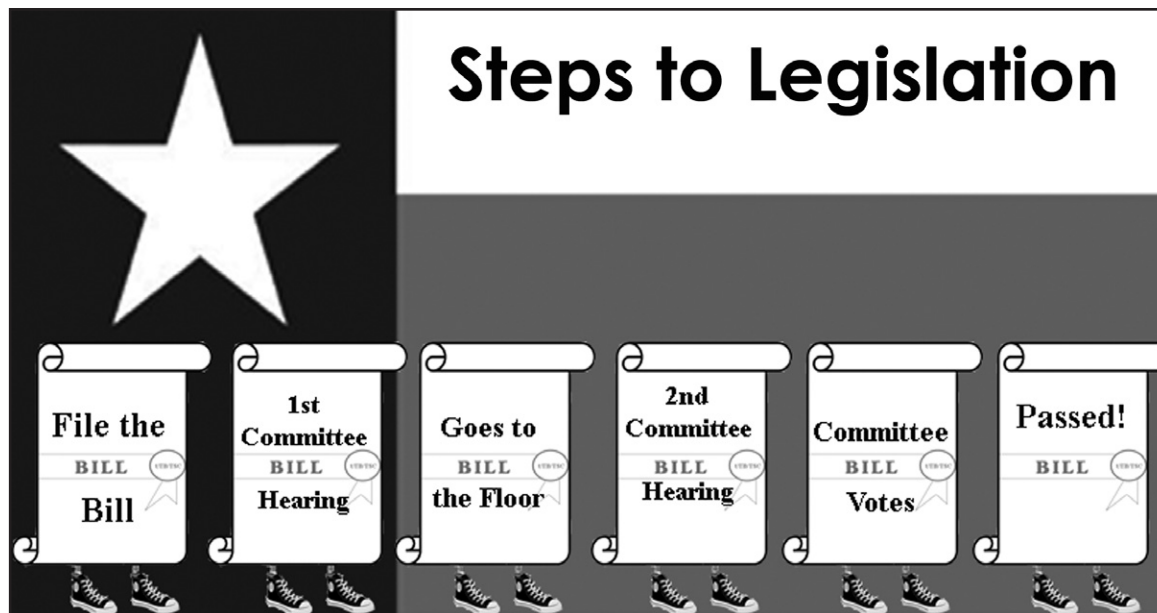
spring classes,” said Mari Chapa, director of Financial Assistance, whose department is housed on the second floor of Tandy. “We have needed the extra space for a long time. These were former classrooms that were converted into offices and they’re not adequate, in my opinion, to serve students the correct way.”

According to Chapa, the Financial Assistance office sees between 20,000 and 30,000 visitors per year.

“We need private offices because all of our information is

confidential and we don’t have that confidentiality when you’re working with 40 students in the lobby and a front counter that’s open,” Chapa said. “We need [these services] to be together because all of our offices and others on campus are student services and we need to be able to walk somebody from one office to another to make sure that their enrollment is handled on the spot.”

Financial Assistance is not the only department in Tandy that wishes it had more space.



LINET CISNEROS/COLLEGAIN

“Well, we are pretty cramped as far as the working area is concerned, and we have quite a bit of congestion during peak periods in the hall,” said Registrar Albert Barreda. “There is no waiting area for students [and] we have a difficult time making work space available for employees.”

The university is also requesting \$9.5 million in Exceptional Items requests in its legislative agenda:

--\$5 million to develop programs in order to increase the number of health care professionals;

--\$1.5 million to establish a center for coastal and environmental studies;

--\$1.5 million to develop a center for public policy, communication and law;

--\$1.5 million for a center for master teaching of mathematics and science.

If the university receives this money, there will be no impact on the taxpayers, university officials say.

“That’s why we request it from the Legislature,” Zavaleta said. “This money comes from state appropriations and not from a taxing entity or the district.”

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UTB/TSC CAMPUS RECREATION SPRING 2009 INTRAMURAL SPORTS

SPRING 2009 INTRAMURAL EVENTS	REGISTRATION	CAPTAIN'S MEETING	START DATE
Basketball - M, W & CR	Mon., Jan. 12 - Wed., Jan. 28	Wed., January 28 @ 5:30 p.m. Student Union - Jacaranda	Play begins Week of Feb. 2
Ultimate Frisbee Friday	Drop In Play 3 - 5 p.m.	No Meeting	Friday, Feb. 6 - Friday, Feb. 27
Tennis Tournament - M, W & CR	Mon., Feb. 2 - Wed., Feb. 12	No Meeting	Tournament, Saturday, Feb. 14
Soccer - M, W & CR	Mon., Feb. 16 - Wed., Feb. 25	Wed., Feb. 25 @ 5:30 p.m. Student Union - Jacaranda	Plays begins Week of March 2
Softball - M, W & CR	Mon., March 23 - Wed., April 1	Wed., April 1 @ 5:30 p.m. Student Union - Jacaranda	Play begins Week of April 6
Dodgeball Fridays	Drop In Play 3 - 5 p.m.	No Meeting	Friday, April 3 - Friday, April 24 <small>*except 17th due to Pington</small>
Pington Tournament - M, W & CR	Mon., April 6 - Wed., April 15	No Meeting	Tournament, Friday, April 17

To learn how to register your team or become a free agent (you need a team), contact the Campus Recreation office at 982-0172 or check out our Web site: www.campusrecreation@utb.edu. You may also email us at campusrec@utb.edu. Join the excitement of intramural sports, get involved, become the architect of your collegiate success! Join with your friends or meet new friends. Get involved today!

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For more information, contact the Fitness/Wellness Coordinator
fitness.wellness@utb.edu / (956) 982-0172

CAMPUS RECREATION GROUP FITNESS SCHEDULE SPRING '09

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MORNING	Work the Circuit 7 - 7:45am		Boot Camp 7 - 7:45am		
NOON	Ab Blast 11:30am - 12pm		Ab Blast 11:30am - 12pm		Ab Blast 11:30am - 12pm
	Power Yoga 12 - 1pm	Fitness Fever 12:30 - 1:15pm	Gentle Yoga 12 - 1pm	Boot Camp 12:30 - 1:15pm	Kickboxing 12:30 - 1:15pm
EVENING	Boot Camp 6 - 6:45pm	Work the Circuit 5:30 - 6:15pm	Work the Circuit 6 - 6:45pm	Fitness Fever 5:30 - 6:15pm	

Bring your Sting Card & Statement of Charges

**Class location may change due to opening of the REK*

Class Descriptions	
Ab Blast	A 30-minute abdominal explosion! This core workout focuses on balance and stability, which improves body posture and reduces the risk of back injury.
Boot Camp	This military style class may include plyometrics, jumping rope, speed drills and various other exercises that will push your endurance and strength capacity to the limit.
Fitness Fever	This energizing workout utilizes the principals of fitness interval training and resistance training to maximize caloric output, fat burning and body toning. It is a mixture of body sculpting movements that are easy to follow.
Gentle Yoga	A perfect way to relax and unwind your mind and body. This class focuses primarily on prolonged, deep stretching and flexibility exercises.
Kickboxing	Kick and Punch your way to fitness. This aerobic workout will keep your heart rate up by performing various kickboxing moves and drills.
Power Yoga	Lengthen and strengthen your body the yogic way with an exercise regime combining the gentleness and ease on joints of walling, the body sculpting and toning merits of weight training, and the cardiovascular benefits of running.
Work the Circuit	A 45 minute workout combining cardio and strength training while rotating through various stations.

Student to perform at Inaugural Parade

By Graciela L. Salazar
Spanish Editor

Sophomore music major Erick Ramos will perform in the Inaugural Parade on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.

Ramos, 20, will play the trumpet as he marches as a member of the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps.

The UTB/TSC student was among 60 trumpet players who auditioned for five spots in the Corps, and will perform with the group throughout its 2009 season. He started playing the trumpet about eight years ago.

Ramos said he is excited to perform in Washington.

"I feel really proud representing the university," he said.

The Corps will perform works by Leonard Bernstein, the late composer and conductor of the Boston Symphony and the New York Philharmonic.

This will be Ramos first time at an inauguration.



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Sophomore music education major Erick Ramos, a trumpet player, will march with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps on Jan. 20 for President-elect Barack Obama's Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, he marched in the San Antonio-based Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

"I learned a lot, I toured the U.S., I got to meet different types of people, different

people from all over the world, so that was a really, really good experience," Ramos said.

He is not the only person from the Rio Grande Valley who will be in the nation's capital as President-elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office.

Among those who will attend the inauguration are Cameron County Democratic Party Chairman Gilbert Hinojosa and Cameron County Court-at-Law No. 2 Judge Laura L. Betancourt.

As a member of the Democratic National Committee, Hinojosa will have a prime seat at the inauguration.

"There [are] only 600 members of the Democratic National Committee, so they each get one seat at the front," he said. "They get another seat for a relative or a friend, but that's a reserved standing seat."

Hinojosa is hoping to change his flight and leave Sunday, to be able to attend to a Latino gala with his daughter, who lives in the capital. His wife will join

• See 'Inauguration,' Page 18

Chess beginnings catch director's eye

By Leslie Olivares
Staff Writer

In 1990, some of Russell Elementary School teacher J.J. Guajardo's students were getting into trouble before school started, so he had an idea on how to keep them focused.

Guajardo's idea was to introduce them to chess.

As the games progressed, his students' interest in chess grew and soon they wanted to play it constantly.

"They started wanting to play chess during the day and I told them they couldn't play during the day," Guajardo said. "So, I made a deal with them, and I told them that if they finished their work ... I would allow them to use the rest of the period to play."

Soon after, then-Principal Rachel Ayala caught wind of the happenings in Guajardo's classroom and purchased chess supplies for his students on the condition that Guajardo open his classroom at 7 a.m. so that his students would not wander the campus.

This was not only the beginning of the chess program at Russell, but also in the Brownsville

Independent School District. The students at Russell, along with Guajardo, stunned the chess world by bringing home the state title in 1993, which they captured for the next six years as well.

This accomplishment grabbed the attention of Higher Ground Entertainment Executive Producer and Co-Director Danny Haro, who has embarked on producing a documentary on this "chess movement" that put South Texas on the map for scholastic chess.

Haro, along with creative director Ernesto Quintero and producer Diana Perez, are in the process of interviewing and gathering research for this documentary. The team arrived last month to begin production.

"Almost 80 percent of the people that are helping us put the story together are there locally," Haro said by telephone from Los Angeles, where Higher Ground Entertainment is based.

One of those interviewed was Andy Zamora, one of the original members of the chess club at Russell in 1990 and now a schoolteacher at the Brownsville Academic Center.

"I believe that it's about time

something like this actually happened," Zamora said, referring to the yet-to-be-titled documentary that will tell this story to the masses.

Haro first heard about this incredible story about two years ago from UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García.

"There [are] two elements that are helping us shape this story," he said. "One is Dr. García, because of her support for this and implementation of [the] chess [program] in the university. But, also, you've got a local kid [Michael Peña]. He himself played chess and then [he] helped us craft the story as well. It was unheard of for these Mexican[-American] kids, these Tejano kids, to be able to succeed in chess, and not only succeed but win the state title."

"What was fascinating was that after that [year], the whole city transformed [and] ... other schools started putting chess into their curriculum. The community started supporting [it]. ... It became a movement."

Peña, a junior business major and a photographer for *The Collegian* newspaper, is helping out in the documentary's

production.

"I was a production assistant and I helped set up the cameras and lights for the interviews," Peña said. The interviews took place at Russell, the UTB/TSC campus and various other locations throughout Brownsville.

Currently, the chess programs throughout the school district are fully funded with an allocation of about \$1 million, according to Guajardo.

Asked how he felt about being the subject of a documentary, Guajardo replied, "It was a real

honor to sit with them. It was a real incredible experience because they looked at me and I felt like they were looking at me in awe."

The filmmakers will return in late February to continue filming the documentary. The film is expected to be released in 2010.

"It's incredible to know that nobody outside of the chess community" knows about this story and the effects it has had and the talent the program produces, Haro said.



MICHAEL PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

Producer/writer Diana M. Perez (from left), Brownsville resident and chess supporter Kay Greenspan, creative director Ernesto Quintero and executive producer Daniel Haro prepare for an interview on the documentary of the history of chess in South Texas.

University of Chicago introduces ‘open housing’

By Sara Olkon
Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

CHICAGO--The University of Chicago, proud home of Nobel laureates, will undertake a bold experiment in chemistry: coed dorm rooms.

The pilot program allowing male and female students to sleep in the same room will start this month. It's not intended for romantic couples, but they won't be excluded because the university won't ask students why they want to live together.

The proposal was a student-led initiative, university officials said.

Coed dorm rooms are allowed at more than 30 campuses nationwide, but they have generally been socially liberal institutions, such as Wesleyan University, Oberlin College and

Oregon State University. The policy is a departure at the U. of C., which has a no-nonsense, nose-in-a-book reputation.

The program won't apply to freshmen, and students won't need permission from their parents to live in "open housing." A letter announcing the program went out to parents last month.

"In today's day and age, it's not really fair to discriminate based on gender anymore," said Asha Woodall, 19, a sophomore at the U. of C. and a supporter of the plan. "Sexuality is more of a spectrum."

Notions about sexuality and personal choice helped propel the program. In the university's letter to parents, the director of undergraduate housing said the gender-neutral plan "allows us to meet the needs of students for whom traditional, same-

sex room assignments are not ideal."

Josh Gana, assistant director for operations and facilities with university housing at Oregon State University, said their "gender inclusives" program has been a great success. Introduced in Fall 2007, Gana said they have more than doubled the number of mixed-gender arrangements this year.

"It's a way to accommodate diverse lifestyles," he said. "It's what students are demanding more and more."

To be sure, not every student likes the idea, and university officials are quick to point out that students will not be assigned to mixed-gender housing.

"Personally, I wouldn't feel comfortable," said Anna Tenuta, a 19-year-old freshman at the U.

of C. "Changing, and personal things in your bedroom--I would feel more comfortable having another woman."

Still, Tenuta said she supported letting other students make their own choice.

Plenty of college officials have yet to embrace the concept. Some critics say the arrangement encourages promiscuity and caters to a politically correct handbook.

Northwestern University, for one, does not allow men and women to share dorm rooms. At Tufts University in Medford, Mass., a Boston suburb, coed suites are fine but officials have rejected the idea of coed dorm rooms.

Bruce Reitman, dean of student affairs at Tufts, told the *Boston Globe* last spring that the concept raised practical and moral concerns.

Alexandra Markiewicz, a 19-year-old sophomore at the U. of C., said the idea isn't necessarily a racy one. Two of her close friends, platonic friends of the opposite sex, would simply make great roommates. The pair hope to take advantage of the new rule at some point, Markiewicz said.

D.J. Zissen, a 20-year-old junior at Oregon State University, is spending his second year in a residence hall that includes gender-inclusive rooms. Last year, he said his neighbor was transgender going through the process of sex reassignment and hormone therapy. No one batted an eye, Zissen said.

"I enjoy that it's letting us live with whomever we want," he said.

Police Reports

The Following are among the incidents reported by Campus Police between Nov. 10 and 13.

At 9:32 a.m. Nov. 10, a staff member reported a university vehicle was damaged in the Physical Plant parking lot. He said the wind knocked a ladder onto the front portion of the vehicle. The damage was estimated at \$300.

At 2 p.m. the same day, an individual reported damage to the front left portion of his 2005 Toyota Camry while it was parked in Lot A. The damage was estimated at \$250.

At 9 a.m. Nov. 11, a student reported that she forgot her backpack on a bench near the Arnulfo L. Oliveira Memorial Library. When she returned to the area, the backpack was gone. The loss was estimated at \$30.

At 10:47 a.m. the same day, a student riding a bicycle was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Ringgold Road and University Boulevard. The student said the driver of

the vehicle asked if he was all right and then drove off. The driver was located in the Fort Brown condos and taken to Campus Police headquarters for a statement. The bicyclist told police that he did not need Emergency Medical Services.

At 11:53 a.m. the same day, a Campus Police officer was dispatched to the Campus Recreation Fitness Center where a student reported his property missing from a storage cubby. The loss was estimated at \$1,000.

At 1 p.m. the same day, a Physical Plant worker reported that a battery for a DeWalt power drill was missing from a locker at a campus construction site. The loss was estimated at \$50.

At 1:53 p.m. the same day, a staff member found a green satchel in Cardenas Hall North.

At 2:30 p.m. the same day, a staff member slipped on an oily substance and fell in the International Technology, Education and Commerce



Center. She did not require Emergency Medical Services.

At 5:20 p.m. the same day, a staff member was notified by a Campus Police officer to move his pickup truck from the middle of Lot A. The staff member accelerated at a high rate of speed, causing the truck's tires to spin and hurl gravel. He was stopped and cited for reckless driving and failing to exhibit a driver's license on demand. He also received a warning for having expired liability insurance.

At 5:30 p.m. the same day, a student turned in a graphing calculator that was found in Cardenas Hall North.

At 6:30 p.m. the same day, a student found a purse in the women's restroom in Cardenas Hall North.

At 10:30 p.m. the same day, a faculty member found a mesh backpack in the Manuel B. Garza Gym.

At 7:20 a.m. Nov. 12, a weed trimmer being used by a Physical Plant employee launched a stone that broke the window of a car parked in Lot U.

At 8:12 a.m. the same day, an Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme and a Ford Crown Victoria collided in the parking lot of the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center. No injuries were reported.

At 8:30 a.m. the same day, a staff member reported being called a derogatory name by a co-worker.

At 10:06 a.m. the same day, the drivers of a Pontiac Aztek, Chevrolet Impala and Kia Rio had a dispute in Lot V over a parking space. No assaults occurred and no profanity was used.

At 3:47 p.m. the same day, a student reported damage to his Ford Mustang while it was

parked in Lot Z. The vehicle had a horizontal scrape about 12 inches long. The damage was estimated at \$200.

At 4:10 p.m. the same day, a Campus Police Officer made contact with a U.S. Border Patrol Agent who advised him about an intoxicated man on the Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course. The man was arrested after allegedly failing a field sobriety test.

At 10:52 a.m. Nov. 13, a staff member reported a fallen tree on the corner of 21st Street and Ridgely Road. The tree fell on top of a Chrysler PT Cruiser and a Chevrolet Cobalt. Physical Plant staff lifted the tree off the vehicles and secured it in place with wooden stakes.

At 10:45 p.m. the same day, a student reported losing her purse in the Barnes & Noble Cafe.

--Compiled by Cynthia Hernandez

Campus to celebrate border wall victory

By Christine Cavazos
Staff Writer

The university will celebrate its legal victory over the border wall by planting “seeds of hope,” UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García told staff and faculty at Spring Convocation held Wednesday in the SET-B Lecture Hall.

Instead of an 18-foot wall dividing the campus, as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had sought, the university has built a 10-foot-tall fence around the perimeter of the campus. The smaller fence is part of the settlement reached between UTB/TSC and Homeland Security last July.

“Many still hunger for a way to demonstrate the pride they had in the university’s action and actual success,” García said.

Keppel AmFELS, a company that designs, builds and repairs ships and offshore drilling rigs at the Port of Brownsville, has donated \$3,000 for seeds and flowers to plant, she said.

“Symbolic seeds and real ones, wildflowers and vines that will grow up the fence as a reminder of the responsibility that each of us has to protect and defend our most important democratic values,” García said.

The event is scheduled for Feb. 2.

García also gave a progress report on the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, which was implemented in Fall 2007.

SAP guidelines require students to earn a 2.0 grade-point average or higher and complete 70 percent of courses per semester and cumulatively



MICHAEL PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García addresses faculty and staff at the Convocation on Wednesday.

in order to be in good academic standing. If the requirements are not met, then students are placed on academic probation.

“The bottom line is the following: Since the implementation of the new SAP standards, students are passing a higher percentage of their classes, students are withdrawing from a lower percentage of their classes and the failure rate is slightly lower in the fall of 2008 than it was two years ago,” García said.

In Fall 2007, 2,154 students went on probation, compared with 1,787 students in the Fall 2008.

Also, in the Fall 2007, 674 students were placed on suspension, compared with 626 students in Fall 2008.

García noted that the SAP policy gained the attention of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“The Coordinating Board is encouraging other schools now to look at the model and to see

if they might also gain positive results,” García said.

She also spoke about being on the education transition team of President-elect Barack Obama, who takes office on Jan. 20.

“It was the most fascinating experience to watch history unfold, not from a front-row seat but from a seat in the balcony,” García said. “I met brilliant people who each had left their own jobs under very similar circumstances, anxious and enthusiastic to work for nothing, except the magnificent privilege of playing a small role in a historic transition.”

She also spoke about the progress of the campus construction projects financed by the \$68 million bond issue approved by Texas Southmost College District voters in

November 2004. They include two classroom buildings, a new library, the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center and the Center for Early Childhood Studies.

“Stay tuned for the grand openings that are going to occur this year,” García said.

She also mentioned that the university will ask the Texas Legislature for \$63 million in tuition revenue bonds to build a new student support services center, where financial aid, advising, testing and enrollment planning will be housed.

“They must see how important this is for the success of our students,” García said.

At last fall’s Convocation, Provost José Martín announced that he would retire next month.

The campus community will celebrate his service to UTB/TSC on his birthday, Feb. 4, in the Education and Business Complex courtyard, García said.

She also talked about ways to give back to the university.

García noted the donation of 1,000 sabal palm trees that are planted along the Fort Brown Resaca and University Boulevard. The trees were donated by Lloyd Horn, father of Barry Horn, the university’s former assistant vice president for Development.

“Often, you don’t imagine how what you have can possibly help a university like ours,” she said. “Never underestimate [the effect of] whatever modest work you were doing for someone else.”



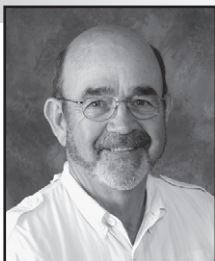
ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

The 10-foot-tall campus fence is the result of a lawsuit settlement between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and UTB/TSC. Homeland Security had sought to access the campus and build an 18-foot-tall fence to help stem illegal immigration.

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Wanna Sting 'EM?

The Office of Student Life is now recruiting Orientation Leaders for 2009! Share your Scorpion Spirit and UTB/TSC collegiate experience with incoming freshmen as they transition into university life.

If interested in applying:

- *Pick up an SEI application at Career Services located in the Old Education Building or call 882-5627.
- *State that you are applying for an Orientation Leader position.
- *Applications are due Friday, January 30, 2009 by 5 p.m.
- *This position is a paid part-time student position for 20hr/wk
- *Must be Student Employment Initiative (SEI) eligible (2.7 GPA & enrolled 15 credit hours)
- *Must be willing to attend summer session I & II classes

For more information, please contact
Irma Pacheco at (956) 882-5776
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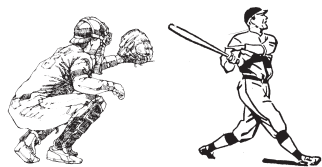
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Trey Mendez
UT-Austin (J.D., 2005)
UTB/TSC (B.A., 2002)

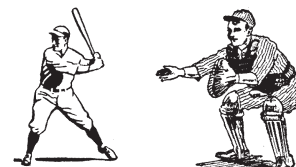
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For more information, contact the
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Batter up!



Scorpions take to the field Jan. 23

By **Hugo E. Rodriguez**
Sports Editor

The UTB/TSC Baseball Team is ready to sting the competition in the spring season.

With the first game less than two weeks away, Head Coach Bryan Aughney has set his sights on a conference championship, at the least.

"This year, we want to go out and compete every day," Aughney said. "I think with that, we'll put ourselves in good position to compete for [the] conference championship and then move on to the first round in the national tournament, and if we're playing well going into the national tournament, I like our chances."

This season is Aughney's first as a head baseball coach. Last season, he was an assistant coach for the Scorpions under Joel Barta, who resigned in August to become head baseball coach for the Ridgewater College Warriors in Wilmar and Hutchinson, Minn.

The Scorpions ended their 2008 season 24-32 overall and 7-5 in conference before being eliminated by Texas Wesleyan University in



Aughney

the Red River Athletic Conference tournament.

On Opening Day, Jan. 23, UTB/TSC faces the Wayland Baptist University Pioneers at 4 p.m. and at 1 p.m. the following day at Scorpion Field.

Aughney talked about his expectations for the game.

"We want to come out and ... compete, we want to be on the same page as a team, we want to go out and showcase what we can do," he said. "I think if we're prepared mentally and physically and we compete, I think it's a good recipe

to give us a chance to maybe win some of those games."

Aughney said the Pioneers, who swept the Scorpions in last season's opening series, are not a team to be taken lightly.

"They're a quality program," he said. "They've got a great coach over there in Brad Bass. They had an outstanding season last year, and I know he had a strong recruiting class. It's going to be an early test for us, which is good. I like to put us out against some good competition right away and see where we stand."

The coach is counting on the Scorpions' experience in the game against Wayland Baptist.

"I think our strengths are experience," he said. "We got some experienced players in some key spots. [Gilberto] Puente behind the plate, Scotty [Price] in the middle, Jacob Yousif in the outfield, Ryan Macdonald, Jorge Camorlinga, everyone. For the guys that return, they all have significant playing experience, that's something that you can't duplicate in practices."

Aughney also highlighted areas in which the team needs to improve.



Carnahan

"We've got to work on coming to the ballpark mentally ready to go every day," he said. "Once we've figured that out, a lot of good things will happen. We've got the hunger, we've got the fire, we just got to mature a little bit as a group and learn to come to the ballpark to get mentally and physically better every day."

Aughney will be joined this season by Joe Carnahan, who will take over Aughney's old job as assistant coach.

Carnahan was the head coach for the Swift Current Indians of the

Western Major Baseball League, a summer collegiate baseball league team he took to the 2008 Eastern Division championship, according to a news release from the office of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"I'm really excited to get Coach Carnahan down here," Aughney said. "He's young, he's enthusiastic, he loves the game of baseball. ... He's got great experience working with top-notch pitchers... at the University of North Dakota and in the summer league of the Western Major Baseball League. His team up there won two out of the last three league championships. That's the biggest thing, is that he brings that winning mentality and what it takes to win a championship, and that's what we're hoping to get down here, is get these guys engrained with that mentality and teach them what it takes on a day-to-day basis to win a championship."

Carnahan shares Aughney's expectations for the season.

"I've seen the [Scorpion] pitchers throw some bullpens," Carnahan said. "I'm very impressed with what they have, and I have some high expectations, and I'm very excited for the season start."

This month...

in Scorpion baseball

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 23	Wayland Baptist Univ.	Scorpion Field	4 p.m.
Jan. 23	Wayland Baptist Univ.	Scorpion Field	After Game 1
Jan. 24	Wayland Baptist Univ.	Scorpion Field	1 p.m.
Jan. 24	Wayland Baptist Univ.	Scorpion Field	After Game 3
Jan. 31	Alumni Game	Scorpion Field	TBA

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Wanted: head volleyball coach

By **Hugo E. Rodriguez**
Sports Editor

UTB/TSC is looking for a volleyball coach after the resignation of Head Coach John Barnes.

"We now have a search going on, it's going very well," said Vernon Mummert, director of Intercollegiate Athletics. "We've got about, I want to say, close to 30 applicants, some really good applications, and we're really looking forward to conducting those interviews and getting the right fit for UTB/TSC in terms of volleyball."

Under Barnes, the Scorpions ended their season with a 10-23 record (7-5 in conference) and were eliminated by Southwestern Assemblies of God University in the Red River Athletic Conference semifinals in November.

Barnes, who resigned on Dec.

8, was the fourth volleyball coach in less than three years to leave the university, following David Nicholson, who resigned after two months and coaches Marcus Young and Bruce Atkinson, who lasted a season each.

Mummert said the university is working to ensure more continuity in the program.

"[Before,] I don't think the shot was broad enough in terms of where we [advertised]," he said. "This time, we went to the NCAA news, the NCAA market, NAIA.org, American Volleyball Coaches Association, posted there, and [at] higheredjobs.com, so we've really exhausted all our potential in terms of getting the word out."

Mummert noted three other areas in which the university is seeking to improve the volleyball program.

"We want to strengthen the

program by, perhaps, looking at that assistant coach position and making that full time so that we have more continuity," he said. "It's two people working with those young ladies rather than just one coach and a part-time coach."

"We also want to try and enhance our playing facility, try to make it a bit little nicer, to make it look more user-friendly for our fans and inviting. ... And of course, winning takes care of everything. If you win, you're going to get a bigger crowd."

Mummert remains optimistic about the search.

"I'm very optimistic that volleyball's going to improve, and we have a very good search committee ... so I'm very optimistic that we're going to get a good replacement, a great fit for UTB."

SGA targets constitution, scholarships

By Christine Cavazos
Staff Writer

Student Government Association committees will address proposed changes to the constitution and scholarship awards this semester.

SGA President Jorge Alanis said the senate also will continue working on the 10 goals it set last semester and on maintaining “a good partnership with the university’s faculty and staff.”

The SGA also plans to become more involved in student events.

“Hopefully, this semester, SGA will host most events and continue co-hosting events with other student organizations,” Alanis said.

During the fall semester, the association established committees to address the constitution and scholarships.

Last semester, students questioned whether the constitution was being followed regarding the senate’s advisers.

“That’s something that was a concern, so we added that

committee to act,” Alanis said. “Hopefully, by April, when the students vote in the next SGA election, they will also vote to approve or disapprove [amendments to] the constitution.”

The SGA also plans to award scholarships to students who achieve high grades.

“Right now, we don’t know the exact amount we are going to give, but that’s why there is that committee--to manage and see how much the students can get compensated for their leadership and good grades,” Alanis said.

Other goals include keeping students informed about the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

In its Nov. 25 meeting, the senate approved:

--Resolution 9, appropriating no more than \$800 for the purchase of promotional items to have available for distribution for students during outreach events. The resolution was sponsored by School of Business Senator Samuel Martinez;

--Resolution 10, appropriating \$1,200 for the purchase of two Leadership Rings to be awarded in conjunction with the Leadership Ring Ceremony conducted by the Dean of Students Office. School of Business Senator Madeleine Rodriguez sponsored the resolution;

--Resolution 11, nominating senate members Rosalinda Rangel, Joe Lee Rubio and Lucio Torres III for the position of student regent on the University of Texas System board of regents. The resolution, sponsored by Senator Pro Tem Erasmo Castro, also names Rubio as a nominee to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In the Dec. 2 meeting, the senate approved Resolution 12, appropriating \$200 for survival packs to be distributed to students during final exams week. Castro sponsored the resolution.

The Student Government Association is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. today in the Student Union’s Salon Gardenia.

Enrollment at 11,162

By Graciela L. Salazar
Spanish Editor

vice president for Enrollment Management.

Students are enrolled for a total of 103,221 credit hours, 9.27 percent less than spring 2008.

Fossen said the numbers won’t be stabilized this week.

“Within four weeks after the term begins, we have most all of the numbers stabilized,” she said.

The preliminary number of Dual Enrollment students is 928; last semester there were 2,543. Dual Enrollment students are high school students taking college-level courses at their respective high schools.

Students may add or drop classes today through Wednesday. The fee is \$5 for each transaction.

Thursday is the deadline for late registration and add/drop payments.



REBEKAH S. GOMEZ/COLLEGIAN

English sophomore Jose Ruiz waits in line Tuesday at the Business Office.

As of Wednesday, more than 11,000 students had registered for classes at UTB/TSC this spring semester.

A total of 11,162 students have registered, according to figures provided by the Office of Enrollment Management. Last spring, a total of 13,046 students registered for classes.

“My prediction is that we will be nearly even again,” said Linda Fossen, associate

CALL FOR AUDITIONS!!

This year, UTB/TSC will have its 4th annual benefit production of the “Vagina Monologues”!

If you wish to participate in V-DAY 2009, please join us at our first informational meeting and casting call. We need all the help we can get, so whether your interest is on-stage, behind-the-scenes, or creating marketing strategies, we look forward to seeing you on Thursday!

All are welcome, no prior theater experience needed.

When: Thursday, January 15, 2009

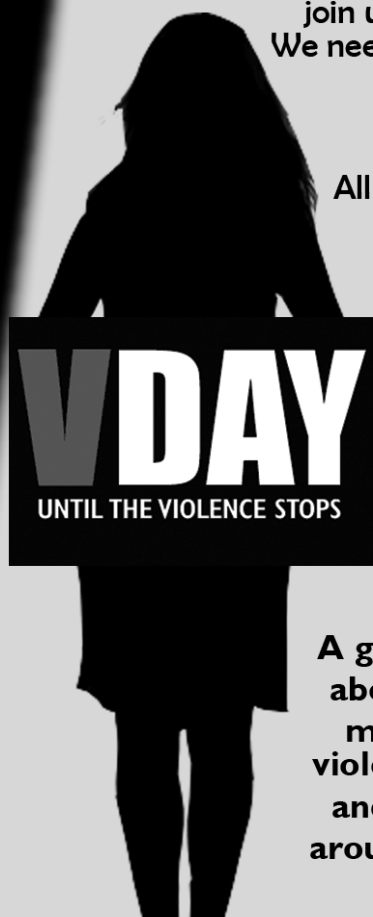
Where: Science & Engineering Building (SET-B) Lecture Hall

Time: 6 p.m.

For more information, please call Irma Pacheco: at 882-5776, visit the Student Life office in Student Union 2.10, or e-mail: irma.pacheco@utb.edu

What is V-DAY?

A global movement whose purpose is to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, as well as raise money for local beneficiaries that are working to end violence. To date, V-DAY has raised more than \$40 million and funded anti-violence organizations and safe houses around the world. For more information regarding V-Day, please visit www.vday.org



Estudiante participará en el Desfile Inaugural

Por Graciela L. Salazar
Editora de Español

Erick Ramos, estudiante de música de segundo año, participará en el Desfile Inaugural el 20 de enero en Washington, D.C.

Ramos, de 20 años, miembro de la banda musical Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps tocará la trompeta mientras desfila.

El estudiante de UTB/TSC fue seleccionado entre 60 trompetistas que audicionaron para ganar uno de los cinco puestos en la banda y tocará con el grupo durante la temporada del 2009.

Ramos dijo que estaba muy emocionado por tener la oportunidad de tocar en Washington.

“Me siento muy orgulloso de representar a la universidad”, dijo.

Los cadetes interpretarán las obras del compositor Leonard Bernstein, quien era director de la Sinfónica de Boston y la Filarmónica de Nueva York.

Esta será la primera vez que Ramos estará en una inauguración.

En el 2007, marchó con la banda Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

“Aprendí mucho, viajé por Estados Unidos, pude conocer muchas personas, personas de todas partes del mundo, así que esa fue una muy buena experiencia”, dijo Ramos.

El no será la única persona del Valle Sur de Texas que estará en la capital del país cuando Barack Obama, el presidente electo, tome posesión.

Entre las personas que acudirán está el presidente del Partido Demócrata del Condado de Cameron Gilbert Hinojosa y Laura L. Betancourt, juez de la corte No. 2 del Condado de Cameron.

Por ser miembro del Comité Nacional del Partido Demócrata, Hinojosa tendrá un asiento preferencial en el evento.

“Sólo hay 600 miembros del Comité Nacional del Partido Demócrata, así que cada uno tendrá un asiento especial al frente”, dijo.

Hinojosa espera poder cambiar su vuelo e irse el domingo para poder asistir a la Gala de Latinos con su hija, quien vive en la capital. Su esposa lo alcanzará el día siguiente.

Habrà una conferencia de Líderes Hispanos el 19 de enero.

“Vamos a tener muchos talleres de discusión sobre el poder de los hispanos en el proceso democrático, en el proceso político”, comentó. “Van a reunirse muchos líderes latinos de todas partes de los Estados Unidos.”

En la noche del 19 de enero Hinojosa asistirá al Gran Baile Texas.

“Lo llaman ‘Boots and Black Tie Ball’--

tienes que usar botas”, platicó.

Obama tomará posesión el 20 de enero antes de las 11 a.m., tiempo del centro.

Hinojosa también asistirá a un baile regional de inauguración la tarde del mismo día.

“Aparentemente el presidente va a todos

Ortiz.

“Su oficina me contactó hace tres semanas y me dijeron que a pesar de tener 400 solicitudes, sólo tenían 170 boletos, así que fue un sorteo al azar”, Betancourt platicó. “Así que tuve suerte de obtener los boletos”.

Esta no será la primera vez que Betancourt asista a una inauguración presidencial.

“Yo vivía en Washington, D.C., cuando [Bill] Clinton ganó la elección, así que pude asistir a esa inauguración”, dijo. “Así que yo sé lo que es y conozco esa emoción... yo entiendo que esto va a ser muy diferente. Va a haber mucha gente ahí.

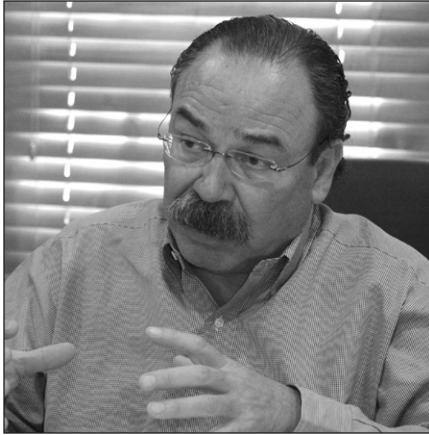
Ya veremos que sucede. Yo voy a estar en medio de todo eso”.

El esposo de Betancourt no podrá asistir, así que ella irá con una amiga de Washington.

“Me encantaría ir al desfile también, pero me dijeron que no confiara en ello porque va a haber mucha gente ahí”, dijo.

Betancourt traerá artículos de recuerdo del evento.

“Llevaré mi cámara”, ella dijo. “Quiero traerle a mis hijas algunos recuerdos. Voy a guardar mis boletos y cualquier otra cosa que encuentre para mis amigos”.



Gilbert Hinojosa



Laura L. Betancourt

los bailes regionales”, dijo.

Hinojosa comentó que es un día muy especial para América.

“Tenemos a alguien que llegará a la Casa Blanca, que es como nosotros”, dijo acerca de Obama. “El no viene de una familia rica, no viene de gente con privilegios, él creció pobre y llegó a donde está ahora por medio del trabajo y el buen juicio, apegándose a los valores y compromisos que son importantes para los americanos hoy en día. Este hombre, creo yo, nos aprecia”.

Betancourt consiguió boletos por medio de la oficina del Representante Solomon



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

El trompetista Erick Ramos, estudiante para maestro de música de segundo año, marchará con la banda musical Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps el 20 de enero en el desfile inaugural para el presidente electo Barack Obama en Washington, D.C.

Estudiante de hoy



DIEGO LERMA/COLLEGIAN

Nombre: Rodrigo Gómez

Edad: 22

Ciudad natal: Matamoros

Promedio: 3.19

Especialidad: Comercio internacional

Clasificación: Estudiante de último año

Reconocimientos: Lista del Decano, Otoño 2006. Beca de estudiantes internacionales: Primavera 2006 y Otoño 2008.

Pasatiempos: “Jugar póker, navegar en el Internet y chatear”.

Actividades extracurriculares: “[Miembro de la organización de] estudiantes internacionales, y soy tutor de español”.

¿Cuáles son tus metas? “Quiero graduarme, conseguir un buen trabajo, viajar y conocer el mundo”.

¿Cuál ha sido tu reto más grande? “Conseguir trabajo en la escuela siendo un estudiante internacional”.

¿Si pudieras cambiar algo de la universidad, qué harías? “Más opciones en los horarios de clase, más ayuda financiera para estudiantes internacionales, y más opciones para comer en el campus”.

¿Qué te gusta de la universidad? “Las instalaciones y [que] la mayoría de los maestros son muy buenos”.

¿Qué les aconsejarías a los estudiantes de nuevo ingreso? “Que no descuiden las [materias de] básicos porque son sus primeras clases y que le echen ganas desde el principio”.

¿Qué consejo les darías a los estudiantes para estudiar en un examen? “[Repasen] todas las notas y si tienen alguna duda [vayan] con el maestro, no teman”.

Anécdota: “Antes de entrar a la escuela pensaba que todas mis clases iban a ser en el edificio Tandy. Después descubrí que no. El primer día de escuela no tenía idea de donde eran dos de las cuatro clases que tenía y no alcancé [a] llegar a tiempo”.

--Recopilado por Paola Ibarra

The Borders apartments

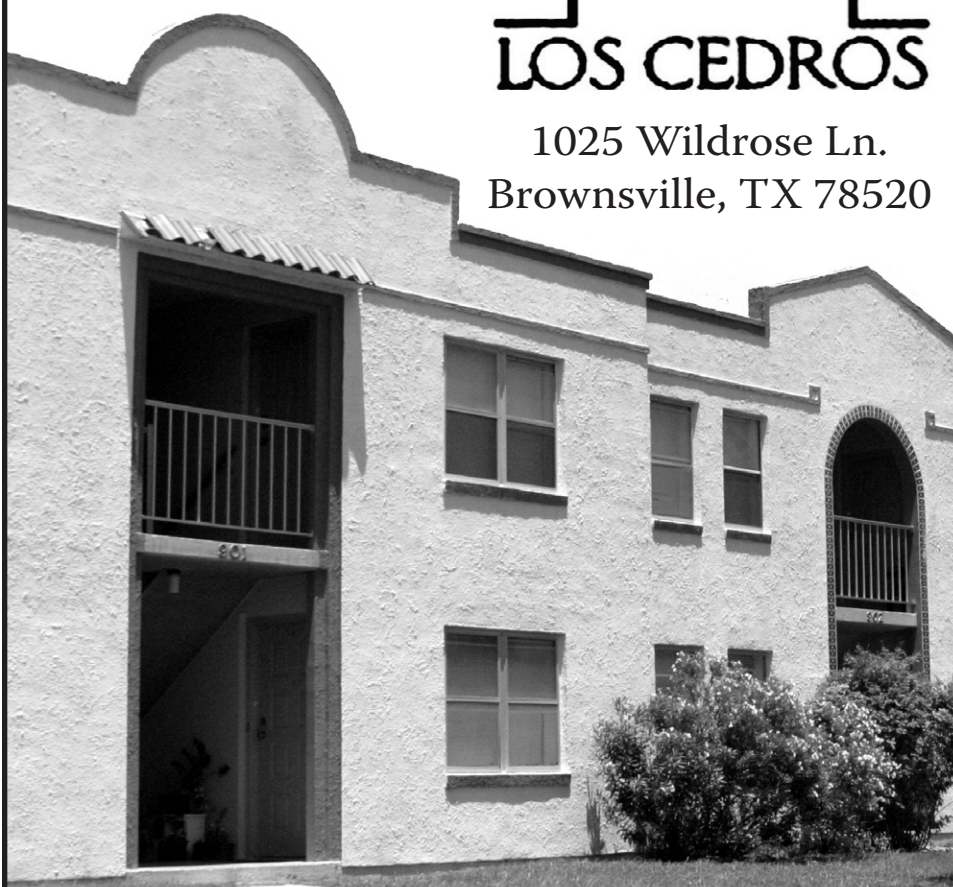
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Inauguration

Continued from Page 11

him the next day.

A Hispanic Leadership Conference will take place on Jan. 19.

"We're going to have a lot of workshops to discuss empowering Hispanics in the democratic process, in the political process," he said. "There's going to be Latino leaders from all over the United States coming together."

On the night of Jan. 19, Hinojosa will attend the Texas Ball.

"They call it the 'Boots and Black Tie Ball'--you have to wear boots," he said.

Obama is scheduled to be sworn in before 11 a.m. Central Daylight time Tuesday on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol.

Hinojosa will also attend a regional inauguration ball Tuesday evening. There are many regional balls, and the new president is expected to attend all of them.

Hinojosa said it is a very

special day for America.

"We have someone who is going to be coming to the White House who is like us," he said about Obama. "He is not from a wealthy family, he's not from privileged people, he grew up poor and he made it to where he's at today by hard work and good judgment, sticking to the values and commitments that are so important to Americans today. This man, I believe, cares about us."

Betancourt was able to get tickets through U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz's office.

"His office contacted me three weeks ago and said that although there were 400 requests, they had 170 tickets, and so it was a random lottery," Betancourt said. "So, I got lucky that I was able to get the tickets."

This will not be the first time Betancourt attends an inauguration.

"I used to live in Washington, D.C.,

when [Bill] Clinton won the election, and so I was able to attend that inauguration," she said. "So, I know what it was, and I know about all the excitement. ... I understand this is going to be very different. There's going to be a lot more people there. We'll see what happens. I'm going to be in the middle of all of it."

Betancourt's husband will not be able to go, so she will attend the inauguration with a friend from Washington.

"I'd love to go to the parade, too, but I was told not to count on it, just because there's going to be so many people there," she said.

Betancourt will bring back tangible memories of the event.

"I'll take my camera," she said. "I want to bring back some memorabilia for my kids. I'm going to save the tickets and anything else that I can find for friends."

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A transmission of the live webcast will begin at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 through MyUTBTSC Blackboard. U.S. President-elect Barack Obama will be sworn in about 10:30 a.m.

Students, faculty, staff and community members can watch the live webcast at the following locations:

<http://myutbtsc.blackboard.com>



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